

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 05236 191750Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2693
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USUN NY
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 5236

EXDIS

LONDON AND MOSCOW FOR SECDEL

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR MOPS UNSC IS LE
SUBJ: SIILASVUO/EITAN DISCUSSION OF ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL PLANS

REFS: (A) JERUSALEM 1132, (B) TEL AVIV 5186

1. PHASE III OF THE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM SOUTH
LEBANON, AS DESCRIBED BY EITAN TO SIILASVUO IN THE
MEETING DESCRIBED IN REFTEL A, LEAVES THREE ENCLAVES
UNDER IDF CONTROL. IT SHOULD COME AS A SURPRISE TO NO ONE
THAT THE GOI IS DETERMINED TO CONTINUE ITS SUPPORT
AND ITS LINKS WITH THE CHRISTIAN VILLAGES IN THE
AREA. THE GOI IS PERSUADED THAT IT HAS A COMMITMENT
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TO THE WELL BEING OF THE SOUTH LEBANESE CHRISTIAN
COMMUNITY WHICH CANNOT BE WITHDRAWN. THE COMMITMENT
IS SWATHED IN MORAL TRAPPINGS, BUT IT IS DIRECTLY
LINKED TO THE SECURITY OF ISRAEL'S NORTHERN FRONTIERS
(SEE BELOW). SECONDLY, ISRAEL IS EQUALLY
DETERMINED TO MAINTAIN THE GOOD FENCE CROSSINGS
WHICH ACCESS TO THE THREE ENCLAVES. THESE CROSSINGS

GIVE THE IDF ITS ENTREE INTO SOUTH LEBANON AND ENABLE
THE GOI TO PLAY ITS DESIRED ROLE IN MANIPULATING
DEVELOPMENTS IN THE AREA.

2. THUS IN THE ISRAELI VIEW IT IS IMPERATIVE TO
MAINTAIN A SECURITY BELT ALONG ITS NORTHERN BORDER
UNTIL UNIFIL IS FIRMLY IN CONTROL IN SOUTH LEBANON.
IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES WE BELIEVE THE NEGOTIATIONS
REGARDING UNIFIL DEPLOYMENT IN THE THREE ENCLAVES
AND FINAL IDF WITHDRAWAL WILL BE VERY DIFFICULT
AND PROLONGED. LEWIS

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Message Attributes

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